DHS-3863-ENG 7-23



2024-2025 County and Tribal Nation MFIP Biennial Service Agreement

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025

Page 1 of 21

Enter the county or tribal nation's unique ID number	*Required field
Contact Information	
COUNTY/CONSORTIUM NAME	
Rice	
PLAN YEAR * CONTACT PERSON 2024-2025 Michael Johnston * ADDRESS	* TITLE Financial Assistance Supervisor * CITY * STATE * ZIP CODE * PHONE NUMBER
320 Third St NW	Faribault MN 55021 507-332-6205
EMAIL ADDRESS (where correspondence related to this form will be sent)	* CONFIRM EMAIL ADDRESS
Mike.Johnston@RiceCountyMN.gov	Mike.Johnston@RiceCountyMN.gov
Mike.Johnston@RiceCountyMN.gov Note: Please review Bulletin #23-11-02: 2024-2025 M Biennial Service Agreement (BSA) Guidelines for more	nnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

County and	Tribal Nati	on METR	Riennial	Service	Agreement
County and	IIIDai Nat	OH MUTE	DICILIIAI	361 4166	Agreement

A. Needs Statement

1. Identify challenges in financial assistance that are prohibiting you from properly serving MFIP/DWP families in your community.

Program training beyond the basic that is offered by DHS. DHS has started to offer work guides but needs to include additional ongoing periodic refresher trainings for veteran workers as opposed to MFIP/DWP training for new workers. Frequent policy and procedure changes present a challenge for workers. Antiquated system to determine eligibility. Household Report Forms and retrospective budgeting is complex and cumbersome for the people we serve.

9550 characters remaining

2. * Identify challenges in employment services that are prohibiting you from properly serving MFIP/DWP families in your community.

Lack of available, quality childcare is keeping families from being able to take advantage of the positive labor market. Lack of public transportation makes it challenging for our families to engage in employment, adult basic education, skills building or higher education. Cost of housing is prohibitive, forcing families to live where they can find housing which often isn't where the livable wage jobs, childcare and transportation are found. Decrease in MFIP Consolidated Fund results in cuts to Employment Services/Family Stabilization contracts and Emergency Assistance fund availability.

9405 characters remaining

3. * Identify the strengths in your community that you are most proud of that benefit MFIP/DWP families.

Communication, coordination and collaboration between the County staff and the area service providers is strong. Referrals to partnering agencies helps our families receive the unique supports they need as they attend training, build skills and begin employment.

The agency has a good working relationship between Financial Eligibility staff and WorkForce Development, Inc. (WDI) Job Counselors. WDI has a good relationship with employers and has built on that by having staff connecting directly with employers about job opportunities.

30% of Financial Eligibility staff are bilingual. As a result, the County is better able to serve individuals with different cultural backgrounds.

A. Needs Statement (continued)

4. What strengths and resources do you have available to address the needs of your participants?

Please **check all** the resources available to participants in your service area and check whether the resource is available within MFIP financial or employment services "in-house" or from a partner organization (County/Tribal Nation resources with developed connections to MFIP), and/or an external community resource or both. If you lack the resources in your service area, check the Resource Gaps column. Add any "other" resources that you consider necessary.

ABE/GED Adult/elder services Career planning Childcare funds Chemical health services Chemical health services Credit counseling/financial literacy English Language Learner (ELL) Food shelf Housing assistance Job club Job development Job placement Job placement Job retention Job search workshops Mental health services On-the-job training program Post-secondary education planning Re-entry support Short-term training Supported work / paid work experience Transportation assistance (gas cards, bus cards) Vehicle repair funds Veteran Services Support Volunteer opportunities Volunteer opportunities	MFIP Resources	Partner Resources	Community Resources	Resource Gaps	
Adult/elder services Career planning Childcare funds Chemical health services Computer lab access Computer lab access Computer lab access Computer lab access Credit counseling/financial literacy English Language Learner (ELL) Food shelf Housing assistance Job club Job development Job placement Job placement Job placement Job retention Job search workshops Mental health services Mental health services Son-the-job training program Post-secondary education planning Re-entry support Short-term training Supported work / paid work experience Transportation assistance (gas cards, bus cards) Vehicle repair funds Veteran Services Support Volunteer opportunities Vouth program Other Dislocated Worker, MN Family Resillency, SNAP E & T, P2P via Workforce Development S. County/Tribal Nation Program Contact Information Please name contacts for the following programs if different from the contact on the cover page. **MMIP RMPLOYMENT SERVICES STAFF CONTACT NAME* **PIONE NUMBER* EMAIL ADDRESS Welname@widtmn.org					ABE/GED
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Childcare funds Chemical health services Chemical health services Credit counseling/financial literacy English Language Learner (ELL) Food shelf Housing assistance Job club Job club Job development Job placement Job placement Job placement Job placement Job packent workshops Mental health services Don-the-job training program Post-secondary education planning Fost-secondary education Fost-secondary education Fost-secondary education Fost-second					Career planning
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Food shelf					Credit counseling/financial literacy
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Job placement Job retention Job search workshops Mental health services On-the-job training program Post-secondary education planning Re-entry support Short-term training Supported work / paid work experience Transportation assistance (gas cards, bus cards) Vehicle repair funds Vehicle repair funds Volunteer opportunities Volunteer opportunities Volunteer opportunities Vount program Other Dislocated Worker, MN Family Resiliency, SNAP E & T, P2P via Workforce Development 5. County/Tribal Nation Program Contact Information Please name contacts for the following programs if different from the contact on the cover page. You only need to give a person's phone and email once. * MFIP EMPLOYMENT SERVICES STAFF CONTACT NAME Wanda Jensen PHONE NUMBER * EMAIL ADDRESS wjensen@wdimn.org					Job club
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Wanda Jensen 507-292-5166 wjensen@wdimn.org	* DWP STAFF	CONTACT NAME			PHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS
	Wanda Je	nsen			507-292-5166 wjensen@wdimn.org
* FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES STAFF CONTACT NAME PHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS Mike Johnston 507-332-6205 Mike.Johnston@RiceCountyMN.gov			SERVICES STAFF C	ONTACT NAME	

A. Needs Statement (continued)

6. Employment Services Provider(s) Information

MN Statute 256J.50, Subdivision 8: Each county, or group of counties working cooperatively, must make available to participants the choice of at least two employment and training service providers as defined under MN Statute 256J.49, Subdivision 4, except in counties contracting with workforce centers that use multiple employment and training services or that offer multiple services options under a collaborative effort and can document that participants have choice among employment and training services designed to meet specialized needs.

List your current employment services provider(s) and check the respective box to indicate which population served. If a Workforce Center is the only employment services provider, list the multiple employment and training services among which participants can choose. Section I of this form addresses provider choice.

NAME		ADDRESS	1				
Workforce Develop	ment, Inc.	2070	College View	Road East, Rocheste	r, MN 55904		
CONTACT PERSON		PHONE N	UMBER	EMAIL			
Wanda Jensen		507-2	92-5166	wjensen@wdimn.o	rg		
Population Served	MFIP ES	DWP ES	FSS	Teen Parents	200% FPG	Other	

B. Service Models

Mi	nnesota Family Investment Pr	og	ram (MFIP) and	the Diversionary Work Program	(DWP)
1.	*What strategies do you use for hard-to	-en	gage participants? Ch	eck all that apply.	
	Home visits		Sanction outreach se	rvices	
	Off-site meeting opportunities		Incentives - specify:	Support Services.	
	✓ Virtual appointments		Workforce One Conn	ect app	
	Other – specify:				
	Roman and the state of the stat				
2.	*What types of job development do you	doī	Check all that apply.		
	Sector job development Indi	vid	ual job development		
	Other – specify: WDI Outreach Sp	eci	alist connects with ar	ea businesses.	
3.	to help participants with employment? No Yes – check all activities en	nplo	yer provides:	based job development with community em	
	Interview opportunities	sk	- 4225	Job shad	owing
	On-site job training Wo	rk e	experience	Helps plan training programs	
	Other - specify:				
4.	* Do you provide the following services No Yes – check all that apply: Transportation Soft skills to Other – specify: Career planning a	rair		al planning Mentoring	
5.	* Do you provide job retention services				
	No Syes – check all that apply a				
	Available to assist with issues that of			Financial planning	
	Soft skills training	ل	Mentoring	Transportation	1
	Personal contact with the employee		HOW OFTEN?		
	Other – specify:				
	If yes, how long do you provide job rete Less than 3 months 3-6 m		-	ths O More than one year	
6.	* Do you provide job advancement serv	ices	to employed particip	ants?	
	No Yes – check all that apply:				
	Career laddering Networ	king	Coaching,	/mentoring Ongoing job search	Education/training
	Other – specify:				
7.	No Yes – check all that apply:		*******	nt and credentialing programs for your partic	
	Pathways to Prosperity (P2P)		, 423	National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)	
	Other – specify: Strong Interest I	nve	intory		

nty and Tribal Nation	META Bieliliai Selvice Agi			
B. Service Mod	els (continued)			
amily Stabilization	Services (FSS)			
* Do you have qualifie accreditation requirem No (a) Yes – che		t with FSS cases in your se	ervice area who meet the lic	ensure and
			L. A. J	and numan
Licensed physician	_	400000	Advanced practice register	ea nurse
Physical therapist	Occupational the		Licensed social worker	
Licensed psychological			Mental health professional	
Certified psychom	etrist			
. * Do you make referra	als for children of FSS participant	s?		
○ No ⑥ Yes – che				
Children's Mental	Health Services	Public Health Nurse	home visiting services	Child Wellness Check-ups
633	nd Children Program (WIC)	Follow Along Progra	ım	
	Referral to agency deemed nece	essarv.		
	es under 200% of Federa)?
1. * Do you serve familie No Yes	es under 200% of Federa)?
1. * Do you serve familie No Pescribe	s not receiving MFIP/DWP that a	ire under 200% of the Fed)?
1. * Do you serve familie No Yes DESCRIBE Referral to WDI for V	es not receiving MFIP/DWP that a	allable.	eral Poverty Guideline (FPG)	
No Yes DESCRIBE Referral to WDI for V	s not receiving MFIP/DWP that a	ailable. MFIP/DWP or families at ri	eral Poverty Guideline (FPG)	
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ounty and Tribal N	Nation MFII	Biennial	Service Agree	ment				Page 7 of 21
B. Service	Models	(continued)					
Minnesota Fan	nily Inves	tment Pr	ogram (MFIP)) Services fo	r Teen Pa	rents		
1. * Are there spe	cialized worke	ers who wor	k primarily with tee	ens?				
O No O Y	es – check all	that apply	for each age group	:				
Minors	Age							
(under age 18)		Financial wo	orker					
			t service worker					
		Social work						
П	_	Public healt						
		Child care v						
		Child prote	ction worker					
		Other job r	ole – specify:					
group, check th	he one positio es	n that serve	nections to other sees this function with Age 18/19	hin that age gro	ıp.			
Minors (unde			Financial work	ker				
\circ	ent service wo	rker	(Employment					
Social wor			Social worker		5)			
Public hea			Public health	•	•			
Child care			Child care wo					
	ection worker		Child protecti	ion worker				
Other job	role		Other job role	e				
3. *Does your Co engaged in pul	ounty/Tribal Na blic health nu	ation have a rse home vi	n active partnersh siting services? <i>Ch</i>	ip with the local eck one for each	public health age group.	agency to get te	en parents enrolled a	and
Minors (under	age 18)	Ag	e 18/19					
Yes, manda	atory	С	Yes, mandatory					
Yes, volunt	tary	С	Yes, voluntary					
O No		С) No					

nty and Tribal Nation	MLTA Rieuuiai Zervice võ			
C. Addressing I	Equity			
. * Describe how you are	e ensuring your services are inc	clusive and accessible for all.		
30% or Financial Elig languages and also in		gency has a contract with Boo	stLingo which provides interpreter services for	most
. * How are you working	g to advance equity in service d	delivery in your county/Tribal N	ation?	
	WDI, is currently working on t	the Inclusive Workforce Emplo	oyer (I/WE) designation. Staff have completed I	IDI
Our service provider,	WDI, is currently working on t e training sessions on Equity, I	the Inclusive Workforce Emplo Inclusion and Respect.	oyer (I/WE) designation. Staff have completed I	IDI
Our service provider,	WDI, is currently working on e training sessions on Equity, I	the Inclusive Workforce Emplo Inclusion and Respect.	oyer (I/WE) designation. Staff have completed I	DI
Our service provider, assessments, multiple	WDI, is currently working on the training sessions on Equity, in the training sessions on Equity, in the training for working and diversity training for working the traini	Inclusion and Respect.	oyer (I/WE) designation. Staff have completed 1	IDI
Our service provider, assessments, multiple assessments. * Do you provide equi	le training sessions on Equity, 1	Inclusion and Respect.	oyer (I/WE) designation. Staff have completed I	IDI
Our service provider, assessments, multiple assessments.	le training sessions on Equity, 1	Inclusion and Respect.	oyer (I/WE) designation. Staff have completed I	IDI
Our service provider, assessments, multiple assessments, multiple 3. * Do you provide equion No Yes, voluntary Yes, mandatory 4. * Do you have cultura	le training sessions on Equity, 1	Inclusion and Respect.		IDI
Our service provider, assessments, multiple assessments, assessme	le training sessions on Equity, I	Inclusion and Respect.		IDI
Our service provider, assessments, multiple	le training sessions on Equity, I ty and diversity training for wor lly specific employment service eck all that apply:	Inclusion and Respect. rkers? es for different racial/ethnic gro	oups?	IDI

County and Tribal Nation MFIP Biennial Service Agreement	Page 9 of
D. Collaboration and Communication with Others	
Workforce One	
* How many Financial Workers have access to Workforce One? 4	
* How many Child Care assistance workers have access to Workforce One? 0	
3. * How many support staff have access to Workforce One? 0	
Workforce One Connect App	
* Does your county/Tribal Nation have the Workforce One Connect app available to participants? No – explain:	
Yes – indicate which of the following groups are utilizing the app features in Workforce One:	
Employment services Financial workers Child care workers Other – specify:	
MAXIS 1. * How many employment services staff have MAXIS access?	
2. * How many managers/supervisors have MAXIS access?	
3	
3. * Describe the process your service area uses to identify and resolve discrepancies between MAXIS and W data in areas such as Family Stabilization Services coding, employment/hours, sanction status, etc.	F1
Financial Assistance Supervisor and Lead meet regularly with Employment Services staff to do thorough matching. They are able to make real-time corrections and update each other on case status. The Stati tool used to update teams on changes. Financial Assistance Supervisor and Lead meet monthly with the Stabilization Services (FSS) Social Workers to review cases and discuss issues.	us Update Form is the primary
	5
	75.46 characters remaining

Page 9 of 21

ounty and Tribal Nation MFIP Biennial Service Agreement	Page 10 of 2
D. Collaboration and Communication with Others (continued)	
Child Care Assistance Program	
1. *What strategies does your agency use that involve MFIP and/or Employment Services staff to support timely and consistent receipt of child care assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program? Check all that apply.	
Shared electronic document management system	
Regular case consultation meetings	
Workers with dual MFIP and CCAP role	
Workers with dual Employment Services and CCAP role	
Specific CCAP workers process MFIP child care cases	
MFIP and/or Employment Services workers receive training related to CCAP	
Communication with CCAP worker via phone, email or fax	
Use of agency-developed forms or documents	
MFIP and/or Employment Services workers assist families with completing CCAP paperwork (for example, the CCAP application)	
MFIP and/or Employment Services workers have MEC2 Inquiry access	
Other – specify:	
2. * What barriers prevent timeliness?	
The complexity of the paperwork can be difficult for the people we serve. Lack of child care providers that accept CCAP.	

7880 characters remaining

y and Tribal Nation MFIP Biennial Service Agreement	Page 11 of 2
. Emergency Services	
* Does your County/Tribal Nation provide emergency or crisis services from your Consolidated Fund? No Yes	
*Submit a copy of your Emergency Assistance policy as an attachment.	
Describe any major changes you've made to this policy below.	
N/A	
	7997 characters remaining

F. Measures

Performance Measures

Performance-based funding is determined by a service area's annualized Self-Support Index value. Review the information and report links in this section to see the effect of performance on funding and reporting, based on MN Statute 2563.626, Subdivision 7.

Each year a bonus to a service area's Consolidated Fund allocation will be based on its performance on the Self-Support Index in the previous April to March year.

The three-year Self-Support Index (S-SI): This measure starts with all adults receiving MFIP or DWP cash assistance in a quarter and tracks what percentage of them, three years later, are no longer receiving family cash assistance or are working an average of 30 hours a week if still receiving cash assistance. Those who left MFIP after reaching 60 counted months and those who left due to 100 percent sanction are only counted as a success if they worked an average of 30 hours per week in their last month of eligibility or if they began receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) after family cash assistance ended. To provide fair comparisons across service areas, DHS calculates a "Range of Expected Performance" for the S-SI that is based on local caseload characteristics and economic conditions. The service area's Self-Support Index value is whether the service area was above, within, or below its expected Range.

The S-SI and Range are annualized for the four quarters in the April through March year ending in the reporting year before the funding year. See the annualized report on the MFIP Reports page on the DHS website for 2023: Minnesota Family Investment Program 2023 Annualized Self-Support Index (state.mn.us). A service area with an annualized S-SI Minnesota from the MFIP April 18 April 19 A

	9999	characters remaining

If your service area performed "above" or "within," you can go to Section G.

If your service area performed "below" for two consecutive years, you will have to **negotiate a multi-year improvement plan** with DHS. If no improvement is shown by the end of the multi-year plan, the next year's allocation must be decreased by 2.5 percent, to remain in effect until the service area performs within or above its Range of Expected Performance.

F. Measures (continued)

Racial/Ethnic Disparities

A racial/ethnic disparity is defined as a one-year Self Support Index that is five or more percentage points lower for a non-white racial/ethnic group than for the white group of MFIP/DWP-eligible adults in the County/Tribal Nation or consortium. The report "Annualized MFIP Performance Measures by Racial/Ethnic or Immigrant Group and by County, County Consortium, and Tribal Provider" is now available at https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/tyler.borgmann/viz/AnnualizedS-SISuccessRatebyRacialEthnicorImmigrantGroup/SSISuccessRateDashboard-intro

To view your agency's measurement, click on the "S-SI Success Rate by Agency" button. This will bring you to the statewide data for 2022. From the first drop down you can select your county, county consortium or Tribal Nation. If you note any groups that are below the line (indicated by a green bar) your county, county consortium or Tribal Nation will answer the next question below: What strategies and action steps for each of the groups below the disparities reference line do you plan to implement for the coming biennium to reduce these disparities?

Rice County has switched to Boostlingo from The Language Line. Boostlingo offers timely accessibility to interpreter services for non-Somali black immigrant languages. Increased training with forward facing workers. 30% of Rice County Eligibility Workers are bilingual.

9730 characters remaining

Submit a copy of your written policy as an attachment.

4000 characters remaining

4. Describe how the unpaid work experience is designed to impart skills and what steps are taken to help participants move from unpaid work to paid work.

4000 characters remaining

If your County/Tribal Nation is providing unpaid work experience activities for MFIP participants and you don't already have an Injury Protection Plan (IPP) in place, please click on eDocs to fill out the IPP form. Email the completed form to: Jonathan.Hausman@state.mn.us.

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Page 16 of 21

I. Provider Choice

MFIP provisions require counties to provide a choice of at least two employment service providers available to participants unless a workforce center is being utilized (MN Statute 256J.50, Subdivision 8). Counties may request an exception if meeting this requirement results in a financial hardship (MN Statute 256J.50, Subdivision 9).

Does your County/Tribal Nation:

- $\hfill \bigcirc$ Have at least two employment and training services providers. Go to Section J.
- Have a CareerForce center that provides multiple employment and training services, offers multiple services options under a collaborative effort and can document that participants have choice among employment and training services designed to meet specialized needs. Go to Section J.
- O Intend to submit a financial hardship request.

I. Provider Choice (continued)

Financial Hardship Request

A financial hardship is defined as a county's inability to provide the minimum level of service for all programs if a disproportionate amount of the MFIP consolidated fund must be used to cover the costs of purchasing employment services from two providers or the cost of contracting with a workforce center.

To request approval of a financial hardship exception from the choice of provider requirement, please provide the following information.

ι.	If the County/Triban Nation had a choice of providers in calendar year 2023, describe:
	factors that have changed which indicate a financial hardship, why the hardship is expected to continue, and
	the magnitude of the hardship, which makes limiting delivery of employment services the best financial option for the County/Tribal Nation.
	2000 characters remaining
2,	Summarize options explored by the county, including use of other partners in a workforce center or other community agencies,
	such as a Community Action Program or a technical college. The summary should also include: major factors which prevent the County/Tribal Nation from utilizing these options and include a cost analysis of each option
	considered; and • the process used to determine the cost of other options (RFP or other County/Tribal Nation process).
	2000 characters remaining
_	If the County/Tribal Nation proposes to directly deliver MFIP employment services, provide a budget and staffing plan that clearly
3.	indicates consolidated funds will not be used to supplant County/Tribal Nation funds. The description should include information about what steps will be taken to ensure that staff have the experience and skills to deliver employment services.
	2000 characters remaining

Financial Hardship requests will be reviewed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Employment and Economic (DEED) leadership. DHS and DEED will also look at the amount budgeted by the County/Tribal Nation for employment and training during calendar year 2023 and use this amount as a guide to determine whether the amount budgeted by the County/Tribal Nation for calendar year 2024 is reasonable.

If a financial hardship is approved, DHS and DEED will closely monitor County/Tribal Nation programs to ensure outcomes are achieved and services are being delivered consistent with state law. For additional information or if you have questions, please email Pamela McCauley at Pamela.McCauley@state.mn.us.

J. Budget

Click on the link below to review your service area's 2024 MFIP allocation and Federal Funding Sources:

MFIP Consolidated Fund (PDF)

In the budget table below, indicate the amount and percentage for each item listed for the budget line items for calendar years 2024-2025. Also note:

- Refer to the 2024-25 Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Biennial Service Agreement (BSA) Guidelines Bulletin section, "Allowable Services under MFIP Consolidated Fund."
- Total percent must equal 100.
- Income maintenance administration is reasonable in comparison to the whole budget.
- Ensure the Emergency Assistance/Crisis Services plan is included if funds are allocated.
- All services must be an allowable expenditure under the MFIP Consolidated Fund.
- Allocation amounts must be spent by the end of calendar year, remaining amounts does not roll over into the following year.

Medical expenditures are NOT allowable. 2024 Budget

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53,453.10	10.92%	Employment Services (DWP)	
260,976.90	53,32%	Employment Services (MFIP)	
15,000.00	3.06%	Emergency Services/Crisis Fund	
32,354.00	6,61%	Administration (cap at 7.5% or up to 15% with an approved adminstrative cap waiver)	
127,692.00	26.09%	Income Maintenance Administration	
	0.00%	Incentives (Include the total amount of funds budgeted for participant incentives but don't include support services here)	
	0.00%	Under 200% Services	
	0.00%	Capital Expenditures	
	0.00%	Other:	
\$489,476.00	100.00%	Total	

2025 Budget

Budgeted Amount	Percent	Line Items
53,453.10	10.92%	Employment Services (DWP)
260,976.90	53.32%	Employment Services (MFIP)
15,000.00	3.06%	Emergency Services/Crisis Fund
32,354.00	6.61%	Administration (cap at 7.5% or up to 15% with an approved adminstrative cap waiver)
127,692.00	26.09%	Income Maintenance Administration
	0.00%	Incentives (Include the total amount of funds budgeted for participant incentives but don't include support services here)
	0.00%	Under 200% Services
	0.00%	Capital Expenditures
	0.00%	Other:
\$489,476.00	100.00%	Total